POLICE THE CAMP!

"DAD, I don't see why you are so eternally insisting on order in the house," said Harold Ray. His father had asked him to take his hat off the hall stand and hang it in its proper place, and Harold was a little out of humor. "It wouldn't have done any harm to leave my hat on the hall table, would it?" he went on.

"Why, not to the house, Harold. I'm not thinking so much about the order of the house as about you. It would have done no harm, except to you, to leave your hat there when you knew that it belonged somewhere else. A slovenly character produces slovenly habits. And I have a theory that, *vice versa*, slovenly habits react on character. The whole thing is a question of discipline.

"Let me illustrate," the father continued. "When the boys in that cantonment we visited were ready to entrain for France the last order that was given after they were all packed and about to march to the station was, 'Police the camp!' The officers detailed certain of the men to pick up all waste matter about the camp in order that they might leave the camp as neat and orderly as they found it. Some one has to be responsible for keeping things picked up in this world, and what one man shirks must fall on others.

"It is always a matter of interest to me to watch the way a man takes care of the washbasin on a Pullman car in the morning. The sloven leaves it in a mess. The responsible man cleans it up. The man who leaves a dirty basin is advertising his upbringing, and falls in my estimation. Likewise, the man who cleans up after himself rises in my estimation. It's an index of character. You'll see the same thing on the golf course. The irresponsible man never replaces the turf if he digs it up with a stroke. The responsible man does. He feels he must leave the course as he found it. The same principle applies to littering up streets and public buildings. The way a man takes his responsibility in keeping order about him tells volumes to others who are watching. I might say the difference is virtually that between a barbarian and a civilized man. If you want to pass, in the eyes of people whose estimate you value, as a real citizen and not a hoodlum, learn to keep order, pick up after you, leave things in at least as good condition as you find them. Police the camp!"

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